



News and Events in the 5th Grade

March 12, 2012

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Important Dates

Mar 13	Science - Variables Unit Test
Mar 16	Report Cards Go Home
Mar 22	Brooks Tour Field Trip
Mar 26-30	Spring Break (No School)
April 3	Science Fair
April 12	D97 Choral Festival at OPRFHS at 7 p.m. Holmes students should arrive by 6:45 (Enter through the main doors on Scoville Avenue)

Dear Families,

P.A.C.K Week March 12-16: **P**ack **A**ssorted **C**olors for **K**ids

March is National Nutrition Month, and Holmes will be celebrating healthy nutrition for kids with P.A.C.K. Week. P.A.C.K. Week is all about packing more colorful fruits and veggies into children's diets. If you pack a snack or lunch for your child, ***please pack a fruit or vegetable based on the color of the day.***

The hot lunch menu that week will also incorporate the color of the day. To add to the fun, ***we encourage students to wear the color of the day!***

Monday- purple
Tuesday- white
Wednesday- red
Thursday- green
Friday- yellow/orange

OPEF's BASE Camp now open for registration!

The Oak Park Education Foundation's exciting roster of summer B.A.S.E. Camp classes for students entering grades 1-9 is now available for registration at www.opecf.org/basecamp/register/. Our camps filled up fast last summer, so register soon!

This summer's program includes Geared Up (engineering with LEGOs), LEGO Landmarks, Architecture Adventure, Vex Robotics, Genetics Mural, Dissection, Medical Illustration & Dissection, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Digital Photography, and Summer in Song (songwriting and chorus). These will be great fun, and educational, too!

B.A.S.E. Camp runs from June 4-29, but classes vary in start dates, times, lengths and locations. It is open to children from any and all schools. And this year we've expanded to three locations: Julian Middle School, Brooks Middle School, and Oak Park and River Forest High School.

We look forward to seeing you this summer!

Art -The *Wednesday Journal's* "Design an Ad" contest entries have been submitted. Look in the paper on 3/21 to see the winners. 5th graders are working on two-point perspective drawings now. Using perspective drawing techniques developed in the Renaissance, we are designing a 3-D looking city on a 2-D surface.

Music - This week we will be finishing our game of music basketball (using xylophones) but we will also be playing recorders. Please make sure your child has theirs in school by Wednesday. If they cannot find theirs, recorders are now 6 dollars cash, check (to District 97) or can be purchased through the school store (under misc. payments).

Spanish - In Spanish we are working on ordering food in a restaurant. Students are working in groups to create a skit that includes waiter/waitresses, managers, and diners. We will start performing the role playing this week.

Library - Information can be found on the Holmes Library page on our school website, <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.



Reading/Literature

TREASURES

This week students will be working on the comprehension skill of identifying fact and opinion. They will read several stories about how people work together to help others in need (especially during times of emergency).

LITERATURE CIRCLES

Students will continue working on creating a Glog to reflect what they learned from reading their novel.

Language Arts

Writing Focus: Students will continue to work on their compare/contrast essays in class. The final draft of the essay is due Monday, March 19th. Next week we will begin working on a creative writing project.

Grammar Focus: The grammar skills for this week are pronoun-verb agreement and abbreviations.

Math

This week, we will be working on a short unit on exponential notation and negative numbers. Today, we reviewed exponential notation. We will cover exponential notation, powers of ten and scientific notation this week, and then introduce negative numbers at the end of the week. There will be a short unit test next Thursday covering these concepts.

Science

The Variables unit test is tomorrow. We reviewed in class today and students have a review sheet from which to study. On Thursday, we will start our unit on the human body.

Students should be finishing up their Science Fair experiments. They should now be actively working on their research papers. Each student should have a research paper on Google docs. Research papers are due March 23, and the Science Fair is April 3. Projects will be judged during the school day and the fair will be open to all at 6:30 in the evening.

Social Studies

This week, we will review the timeline of the American Revolution in class through short video clips and discussion. We also will begin our study of the U.S. Constitution using Sandra Day O'Connor's excellent website, [iCivics.org](http://www.icivics.org). It provides many games and activities to help students learn about U.S. government. Feel free to have your child log on and play the games at home.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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